

In the Specification

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 8 before the paragraph beginning on line 20:

In a preferred embodiment, an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is synthetic, between 2 to 100 base pairs in size and contains a consensus mitogenic CpG motif represented by the formula:



wherein C and G are unmethylated, X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 are nucleotides and a GCG trinucleotide sequence is not present at or near the 5' and 3' termini.

For facilitating uptake into cells, CpG containing immunostimulatory oligonucleotides are preferably in the range of 8 to 40 base pairs in size. Prolonged immunostimulation can be obtained using stabilized oligonucleotides, particularly phosphorothioate stabilized oligonucleotides. Enhanced immunostimulatory activity has been observed where $X_1 X_2$ is the dinucleotide GpA and/or $X_3 X_4$ is the dinucleotide is most preferably TpC or also TpT. Further enhanced immunostimulatory activity has been observed where the consensus motif $X_1 X_2 \text{ CG } X_3 X_4$ is preceded on the 5' end by a T.